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insects, wind, and sunburn while on the palm, which comprises:

[[a)] said cover being a bag substantially oblong in shape;

[[b)] said cover being of ample size to enclose a bunch;

[[c)] said bag composed of a flexible open-mesh fabric which allows free circulation of air throughout the fruit cluster, yet excludes insects and birds, provides a windbreak, and partially shades said bunch;

[[d)] said fabric made of water-repellant, UV resistant fiber; and

[[e)] means for anchoring the top of said bag to the fruitstalk of said bunch.

8. (NEW) A device for protecting dates while on the palm comprising:

a cover composed of a mesh material, said cover being of ample size to enclose a date bunch, said cover having a first end and a second end;

said mesh material defining an opening large enough to allow the free circulation of air throughout said date bunch, and said mesh material defining an opening small enough to exclude insects and birds, provide a windbreak, and partially shade said date bunch;

said first end being open and being capable of being anchored about a fruitstalk of said date bunch; and

said second end being sealed.

9. (NEW) The device of Claim 8 wherein said permeable material is a white, woven, open-mesh polyester having a weight of about 86 to 113 grams per square meter (2.5 to 3.3 ounces per square yard).

10. (NEW) The device of claim 8 wherein said permeable material has a cloth count of approximately 13 warps by 10 fills per square centimeter (32 warps by 26 fills per square inch).

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11. (NEW) The device of claim 8 wherein said first end is anchored about said fruitstalk of said date bunch by a twist tie.
12. (NEW) The device of claim 8 wherein said second end is marked with an identifying material.
13. (NEW) The device of claim 12 wherein said identifying material is a color-coded thread.
14. (NEW) A method for forming a hood on a date bag over a date bunch, the method comprising the steps of:
- centering said date bag proximate the top of said date bunch;
 - and
 - folding a first side and a second side in the same direction about said date bunch.
15. (NEW) An apparatus for protecting a date bunch while on the palm comprising:
- means for allowing the natural circulation of air about said date bunch;
 - means for mechanically preventing insects and birds from harming said date bunch;
 - means for mechanically preventing the wind from harming said date bunch; and
 - means for partially shading said date bunch.